

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 14 and 25 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Gustafsson in view of Taguchi et al. and Barnes; and Claims 15 and 26 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Gustafsson in view of Taguchi et al. and Barnes and Hayashi et al. Claims 1-13 and 16-24 have been previously canceled and thus, Claims 14, 15, 25 and 26 remain active.

Considering first then the rejection of Claims 14 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Gustafsson in view of Taguchi et al. and Barnes, it is to be noted that Claim 14 has now been amended to claim a blending mixer configured to mix the fine powder of the wood waste material and the crushed resin waste material to produce a mixed material such that the mixed material contains 51-75 wt% of wood portion, 10-45 wt% of resin portion and 20 wt% or less of impurities. Support for this limitation can be found, for example, at page 4, lines 5-14; page 13, line 1 through page 15, line 20; page 25, lines 14-24 and at page 27, line 7 through page 29, line 4. A review of each of the above-noted references fails to indicate a teaching or disclosure of a mixed material having the percentage wood portion, resin portion and impurity portion as presently claimed.

Claim 14 has also been amended to claim an extrusion molding device wherein a molding temperature of the extrusion molding device is set to 180-220°C. Support for this limitation can be found, for example, at page 41, lines 3-18. In addition, it is noted that none of the above-noted references teach or disclose this limitation.

Claim 14 has been further amended to claim a sanding processing device configured to form a plurality of streaks on the extrusion mold product by sanding a surface thereof with a sanding paper. Support for this limitation can be found, for example, in Figure 7 and in the

discussion appearing at page 40, line 23 through page 43, line 6 of the present application. None of the above-noted references of record or any of the remaining references of record teach or disclose a sanding processing device for forming a plurality of streaks on the extrusion mold product as presently claimed.

Lastly, it is noted that Claim 14 has now been amended to include the limitations of a coating device configured to make the surface of the extrusion mold product glossy and to claim a drying device configured to include a drying region where the extrusion mold product is conveyed from the coating device and is dried. Support for these limitations can be found, for example, at page 32, lines 1-17; page 39, lines 7-18 and at page 43, line 19 through page 44, line 10. Insofar as a review of the above-noted references fails to indicate a teaching or disclosure of a coating device and drying device as now claimed and in view of the additional limitations added to Claim 14 not found in the prior art, it is submitted that such claim merits indication of allowability. In view of the dependency of Claim 25 from Claim 14, it is submitted that such claim also merits indication of allowability.

Considering next then the rejection of Claims 15 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Gustafsson in view of Taguchi et al. and Barnes and Hayashi et al., it is to be noted that Claim 15 has now been amended to include the limitations which have been added to independent Claim 14. In view of these limitations and insofar as Hayashi et al. fails to rectify the deficiencies of the remaining references noted above, it is submitted that Claim 15 also merits indication of allowability. Claim 26, being dependent upon Claim 15, is also believed to merit indication of allowability.

Applicant further notes that the characteristics of the present invention are to provide a product having wood-like features, to be used as a bottle case or the like, without using natural wood, and to provide a product which is also advantageous in view of effective use of resources and environmental protection. Further, the detailed composition of the components

and the like to manufacture the wood-like product smoothly are disclosed and provide distinct advantages over conventional products.

In the cited references mentioned above, a manufacturing apparatus to manufacture a molded product from mixture of a wood waste material and a resin waste material, through a crushing device, a blending mixer, an extrusion molding device and the like, which are similar to the present invention, is all that is disclosed. In these references, an elaboration of how to make the product molded from the mixture of wood and resin waste materials look more like a product made of natural wood is not disclosed or taught.

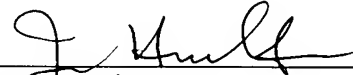
The present invention discloses the preferable concentrations of the wood portion, the resin portion and the impurities to achieve enough strength and rigidity of the product, the moldability thereof upon extrusion molding, and the wood-like features thereof all at the same time. Further, the present invention discloses the preferable molding temperature of the extrusion molding device so that the wood portion is not altered regardless of the heat and the resin portion can be softened enough, thus permitting the wood and resin mixture to be evenly mixed. In this manner, it is possible to obtain the molded product easily and surely. The preferable composition of the components and the preferable molding temperature have significant contribution to obtain the characteristics of the present invention, but are not disclosed nor indicated in the cited references.

Furthermore, the sanding processing and the like provided to supply the product with a wood-like feature are also disclosed and claimed in the present invention, and such limitations are clearly not disclosed or taught in the above-noted references.

In view of the foregoing, an early and favorable Office Action is believed to be in order and the same is hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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